

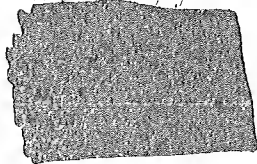


September 19, 2012

Your Honor,

We are writing in regards to Michael Bonthillette whom we have known personally for five years. Our boss  introdneed us in 2007. In 2011 we had a situation in which our basement flooded and we were without hot water. We have five children, one of whom was an infant at the time. We were struggling to make ends meet and were in the process of filing for bankruptcy when this problem arose. Michael was sent over to our house by our boss  to see how he could help us clean it up. Michael cleaned up our basement and called a plumbing company to come fix our broken pipes. He did all of this without charging us for anything. In addition he also paid for us to get a new hot water heater installed. He told us he had five children of his own and he had struggled once so he wanted to help us. Later that year he brought us venison meat, which is a delicacy in our country, to help us feed our family. We feel blessed to have such a kind man in our lives. He truly is a selfless individual and we are thankful he was there for us in our time of need. Please consider this when making your decision.

Sincerely yours,



December 21, 2012

The Honorable John McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell,

After watching the moment of silence on TV for the Newtown, CT tragedy, I think of how awful people can be and wonder why. Then, I think of what a caring and generous man Mike Bouthillette is, and how hard it is to believe he broke the law. He has taken responsibility for his actions. I accept that and know he regrets what he did for Mayor Moreau. However, there is so much more to say about this man. I am [REDACTED] We have 5 children and 3 beautiful grandchildren, and I know him better than anyone.

I regret that you will never see our family or me in the courtroom, because we are his biggest supporters. Mike does not want us there. As a strong tight family who mean everything to him, we will respect his wishes. We will be together on February 12, 2013, waiting patiently for him, hoping and praying you will be lenient in his sentencing.

We have been together since I was 16 years old, even in high school he was the kid who befriended the loners and tried to get them involved. At 18 years old, Mike worked at a Texaco gas station. He became friendly with a mentally retarded man, [REDACTED] who rode a bicycle everywhere, especially between Mike's gas station and the Lincoln State Police Barracks where he also hung out. Mike spent his own money, and bought a fiberglass windshield to make Russell's bike look like the police motorcycles he so much admired. [REDACTED] displayed it proudly as he biked around the town. I fell in love with a warm and compassionate man, and we married [REDACTED]

Mike served his country for six years in the US Coast Guard working search and rescue, again helping people. While in the Coast Guard stationed on Long Island, NY, he took on a second job as a real estate agent making sure he provided for our young family. He then started his own business working tirelessly to be a great provider for his family, allowing me to continue to stay home and raise the children.

Mike had said if God allowed him to do well he would help less fortunate. As the business/businesses grew he started to help others. He let his brother Brian borrow money, interest free, allowing him to get a college education. When my sister's family was in trouble he gave them money, no questions asked, until their loan came through. After my father passed away, he offered to put an in-law apartment on our home for my mother, and is in the process of

doing the same for his own mother with his youngest brother, so she isn't living alone. Not only did he help family, he gave money out of his pocket to homeless strangers on the street, hoping it might change things for them, even with me telling him they were just going to spend it on booze and drugs.

Mike loves football, and wanted to teach his boys the game, although only our oldest would be able to play. Our youngest son was diagnosed with Severe Hemophilia A at a few days old, and can't play contact sports (but is a great baseball player). In 1995, he financed a Youth Football and Cheerleading Organization ensuring our children a league to belong too, our girls being on the cheerleading squads. Over the next few years the organization repaid him interest free. Our whole family worked hard to make it a successful league, benefitting many children. The organization is still in existence today, with a sportsmanship award named after him until this year, because he asked his name be removed.

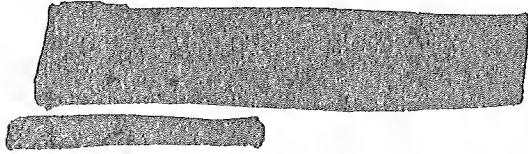
Mike always made time for his children and myself, he loved being with us. He coached every one of them at some point in their lives, whether it was football, basketball, soccer, baseball or softball. During tough times in their lives, or sibling situations, he always knows how to handle things, staying calm and making everyone feel better. His children always ask him for advice on important decisions they have to make. His caring and compassion has also rubbed off on our children. When our son [REDACTED] was in high school, I got a call from the school principal who highly praised [REDACTED] on how well he worked with his physically/mentally disabled classmates. I'm so proud of the man I married. He is a far better father, than I can ever dream to be a mother. During our marriage, we have gotten through many "bumps in the road" as he calls them, this situation probably the biggest bump of all. But our family will get through it together.

Over the years, we have met many people who Mike has helped. Whether they needed a place to live because they lost their home, or needed a loan to get by, he trusted they would pay him as soon as they could. He has given people jobs and even helped others start businesses. Employees have gotten interest free loans, that they paid back weekly through the company payroll. Also, people in need of his services unable to pay, he always worked something out. He never expected or wanted anything in return. I don't know all the people who he has helped, but I always had faith in his judgment, although some have taken advantage of him.

I know how seriously Mike takes what has happened, because over the last few months all he has been doing is preparing his family and businesses for his time away, assuring us he will be fine. His family will be there for him. I worry about his rebuilding the rest of life. Unfortunately, the business which he worked so hard to build over the years has suffered because of this situation. We have lost long time customers, forcing us to lay people off because of lack of work. Mike has been forced to sell his interest in his successful home healthcare agency which he built from scratch, because a felon can't be involved in a business of this type. However, I know my husband. I know after completing his sentence he will come back strong and do all he can to build a successful business again.

I sincerely hope my husband will find the best way through this. Mike is the heart and soul of our family, and has had a positive impact on so many other lives. I know our family will survive because we will be strong for him and, as always, he will be strong for us. I hope and pray you show leniency in his sentencing, because Mike has been a good man all his life and because what happens will do more than affect Mike. Many peoples' lives will change.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, rectangular redacted area covering the signature and the first line of the address. Below it is a smaller, dark, rectangular redacted area covering the second line of the address.

[REDACTED]

December 12, 2012

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

I am writing this letter to attest to the quality of character of Michael Bouthillette, whom I have known as a friend and colleague for seven years. I thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy testimony in the hope that it may prove helpful to your decision regarding his current case in your court.

First, please bear with me in sharing a bit of my personal history to help you understand my context for communicating to you - I am a Cape Codder who in 2000 began buying properties in Providence, RI. I had a passion for renovating older Victorian houses into beautiful homes and renting them for fair prices.

Over the next few years I acquired 30 units mostly on Federal Hill. It was difficult work, but I was dedicated to the neighborhood and building a sustainable business. My goal was to create a legacy fund which would provide grants to non-profits doing work I would like to see supported in perpetuity.

Everything changed in 2005 when tropical storm Alex came through Providence. The city had required me to have one company remove the old roof on my property at 1 Brighton Street and use another company to put on the new roof. The temporary plastic became compromised and several inches of rain poured through the roof. It was a fully occupied four unit building, providing housing to folks who needed affordable rates.

When this disaster hit, I didn't know what to do. I called a local company and happened upon Mike Bouthillette. I knew immediately I could trust him. His direct eye contact and calm demeanor put me at ease despite the destruction happening all around us. He said, "Don't worry about it, we'll take care of it; It'll all be okay."

And work on it we did. [REDACTED] and her husband had lived on the top floor for almost fifty years. I had "inherited" them when I bought the building with my partner in that property. [REDACTED] had lost her husband just three months before the storm. She was an octogenarian and subsisted on her social security.

She paid \$425 a month for a 3-bedroom apartment and I had not raised her rent in any of the years since I bought the building. It just didn't seem right to force her to move, as there was nowhere with dignity that she could afford. Mike saw [REDACTED] 50 years of memories saturated in water, including her photos, paper records, newspaper articles, her husband's clothing which had not yet been sorted, and so much more. It was truly devastating.

His crew painstakingly took everything she owned to their shop and spent more than seventy labor hours sorting and drying everything. Most of those hours were never invoiced to me and never mentioned. Together we found [REDACTED] another place to live and pooled the money to move her and pay her rent for close to a year. We even got her cat medical care.

We took care of everyone in the building so they could relocate, get their possessions salvaged and dried, and their spirits restored. We even found ways to purchase new furniture to make it easier for them.

Mike charged me just a small fee for the remediation work. Mike knew I didn't have much money and the insurance company was dragging their feet.

Once the place was gutted, Mike and his crew offered to contract to do the renovations and then restore the building. I gladly hired them and was immediately pleased at the flawless work they performed. My goal was then to sell off the units as condos so I could try to stay afloat.

At that time I maxed out every credit card and took out equity loans to begin to rebuild the building.

Because of complications about the two companies which had been working on the roof, my insurance company was able to delay over two years. Eventually I had to get an attorney who predicted it would take up to ten years to get them to pay.

Work was eventually completed on the building and the condos went on the market. At that point I still owed a large final payment to Mike and it would be a while until things

would sell. The market had experienced a huge hit while we were under construction. I was about to break.

I met with Mike to tell him I could pay him, but would need a bit more time. On a whim I asked him if there was any way he might be willing to take the tiny studio in the building in lieu of my final payment. Mike said "Yea, okay, that'll be fine." It was the first positive thing that had happened in two years, and I felt like I could breathe again. Since that time the property has decreased by almost 40% in value, and Mike has never complained. In fact we have become friends.

In my following the current court case in the media, I have been shocked and deeply saddened that Mike has been depicted as dishonest. In my experience, he tries to be helpful and always puts people before money. If he did not charge the Mayor for work he did, I believe it was just because he would do that for anyone.

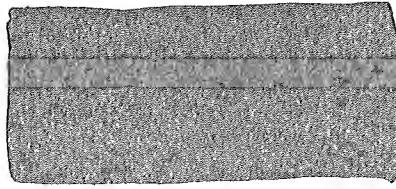
But I understand that he really should have been more careful, because public entities cannot receive anything which can be perceived as a gift, as that can make things very complicated.

It is sad to hear that his family has been so horribly affected by all this negative media attention. The media even said that Mike went to a building and boarded it up with people inside. There is no way this good man could ever have done that; it is just impossible. I am not someone to get in the middle of a court case by any means, but I felt so strongly about the unkind treatment of this man in the media, I just had to speak up.

Your honor, I respect your authority and would never ask you to decide a certain way in a case. I trust your ability to make a fair and just decision. I just wanted to share with you the immense generosity shown by this man to me in my greatest time of need. I simply ask your consideration of all he has done.

Thank you very much for your attention and understanding. I can be reached at [REDACTED]

Sincerely, [REDACTED]



January 21, 2012

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United State District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI. 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

I have known Michael Bouthillette all of his life. I am his cousin, and he is my best friend. Our families are also very close. I have worked alongside him for over 22 years.

We have always been close. I started working for Mike when I became laid off and I needed work. Mike said "You don't want to work for me, I will give you a few accounts to start and you can do them on the side at night and paint during the day". I explained that I didn't want to deal with customers. I wanted to work for someone who could offer me 40 hours and where I would not be laid off, something steady. Mike started me out as a laborer, but he believed in me, even when I didn't. You see, this is how Mike is to just about everyone he meets, and he had more in mind for me. He helped me develop my people skills so I was able to talk to customers and understand their needs. With Mike's encouragement it wasn't long before I was a supervisor running his largest account with co-workers I was responsible for.

I remember so many times when Mike was approached by an employee who had fallen behind on their bills. Each time they would ask for help. Mike would loan them what they needed and set up weekly payments that they could afford, and not charge them interest. Mike did this for friends, co-workers and even strangers on some occasions. At first I thought he was crazy, but over time I saw how this built loyalty, helped people in great need, and seemed to somehow make everything better.

There have been times at work when we lost accounts. That happens in business, it is normal. What is different is how Mike handled it. Sometimes we no longer had work for up to 14 people at once. I remember when that happened early on in working together. Mike had them come to the shop to work. I asked him, "What am I going to do with all these people?" He told me to find stuff for them to do. I don't care if they have to polish the light bulbs". He said, "These people have families. They need jobs. I can't lay them off. I will find work for them." And he did.

It was not just at work. I have never met anyone who is more giving than Mike. I can think of so many examples.

One day Mike and I were walking in the city. A guy who seemed homeless approached Mike and asked him for help. Mike reached in his pocket and handed him his money; all of it. It was a lot. I asked Mike "Are you crazy. Giving that to him? He is

just going to buy drugs with that much". Mike said "maybe with that much, he might get cleaned up. He may just need a hand to get going again."

Another time Mike and I were walking into Dunkin Donuts, it was about 10 degrees outside. There was an older woman who came up to us and asked for a \$1 to get coffee, because Dunkin Donuts wouldn't let her sit inside without buying anything. Mike took her inside and bought her a coffee and a gift card and told her, "Now you can come in anytime you want." I probably would have ignored her.

Often when we were doing board-ups we did partial board ups. A partial board up is when we would board up some floors while leaving others occupied. We would board up the other floors in buildings where people were not living, often where the gangs had been partying. At times Mike would see that the families in the other units were struggling, families with small children, or elders with not enough food. He would give them cards from Stop & Shop for groceries, or even money.

I mention these stories because they show how unique Mike is. His heart is different than anyone I have ever met.

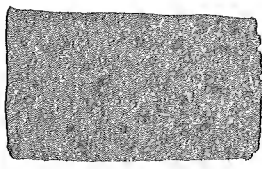
Mike is the driving force behind the company. When Mike comes to a job he is the first person to roll up his sleeves and get into the work, even in the nastiest jobs, and in Disaster Restoration you can imagine how bad it gets. It doesn't matter what the job is, when Mike comes to the job it runs smoother and everyone seems to work better. I think it is because he respects everyone and people know they can trust him. He really cares about who they are and that makes all the difference.

With what has happened, the company is already changing. For the first time ever in 22 years, I have seen Mike not able to do everything and be everywhere he needs to be. Through it all this he has always tried to be upbeat. He is telling us, me, our coworkers and his family, that it will be okay. We will get through all this and get it behind us. And he always says "when I get back from this" we will fix whatever is broken and go on. He keeps a good face up, but this has really hurt him. He doesn't really enjoy life anymore, though he hides it well. He goes to work and he goes home. The only thing now that he does is go to his daughter's games. And he helps with his grandchildren, always very happy to smother them with love and affection. It is hard for me to see the most giving person I know, hurt this badly.

Please be lenient, Honorable Judge McConnell. Mike has so many good qualities. He is the kind of person that we point out to our children and say, if you live that way, everything happens for the best. I only hope that your sentencing considers what is so special about Mike and gives him the chance to go forward with his spirit intact.

Sincerely,





January 3, 2013

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mike Bouthillette whom I have known all his life.
I am one of Mike's cousins and friend.

When I was getting over my cancer treatments Mike came and helped my sons and brother paint my house. I didn't ask as I could not pay anyone and I live about 45 minutes away. He saw that I was in need and came to help. He helped make the job fun and made me feel as though I was doing him the favor allowing him to help. That is the way he is: generous. A year or so later he gave me the opportunity to work a part time job at a generous rate and I still have it as one of my part time jobs. He gave me a chance. I was not able to work hardly at all. This job was such that I could do it at my pace. All that mattered was that the job was done each day. At first it took me twice as long as anyone else to do it and eventually I got so that I could do it in the regular amount of time. He gave me the opportunity to earn my way. I got a little of my dignity back. Instead of a hand out he gave me a hand up. He has friends that he helps out because they are his friends and not for what they will do for him later.

Over the years I saw him help his Dad and Mom and family. When Mike's Dad got sick Mike was there showing how much he cared. He made the time. Money may be very important but you put your time where your heart is. Mike put his time in his family.

I never knew Mike to lie or put on airs. What you see is what you get. I never felt the poor relative. He made me feel as though I was part of his family.

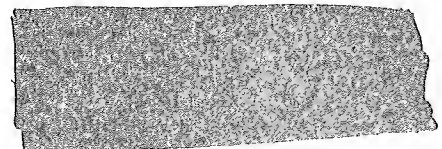
I am not saying that Mike didn't work. He worked very hard and often long hours. He owned a business. That is what you do.

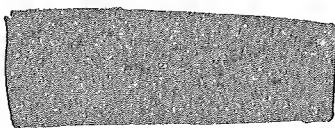
Another thing I like about Mike is that I don't see him as having two kinds of ethics. I see many individuals make decisions for business that they don't do with their family. The way I see Mike is that fair at home is fair in business.

People were talking with me the other day and started talking about what a terrible thing this person did (Mike). The media has branded Mike as a criminal. I bring this up because I believe that Mike and all his family have already paid a great price.

Whether Mike broke the law or not is up to the courts. I do not believe that Mike knowingly set out to break the law. I believe that he was just helping a friend the way he did all his other friends. The difference is that this friend happened to be a public official.

Sincerely








December 23, 2012

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell,


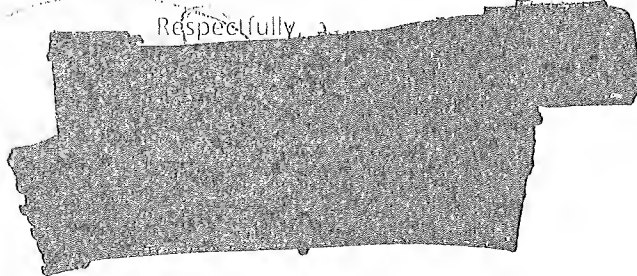
My name is ; I am married and have two daughters. I am recently employed by the City of Providence and before that I was a small business owner. I was a volunteer fastpitch softball coach for fifteen years. I have been an active member of my community for many years.

This letter is in support of Mike Bouthillette. I ask for your honor to consider an act of leniency during Mike's sentencing. Over the past two years I have come to know Mike as a decent and generous person. I was fortunate to meet Mike through his daughter  who was a player on the New England Phoenix Elite Softball team that I coached. He and his wife  are the perfect softball parents: supportive but not intrusive. Mike and I became acquainted at practices, games, and team events. I found him to be a humble and kind man with a willingness to extend a helping hand.

I did not truly appreciate Mike's generosity until over this past summer I faced an extremely difficult financial situation that could have ruined me. I had lost my job and found it was impossible to meet obligations I had taken on, including paying for my mother's nursing care. I was on the edge of bankruptcy and even worse: great embarrassment. Somehow Mike found out about the difficult situation and selflessly offered to assist me. Keep in mind that he did this during a time he himself was also working through a difficult circumstance. Mike's generosity cleared the way for me to move forward and lifted a burden words cannot describe. The most impressive aspect of this interaction was Mike's unwillingness to accept a public thank you or acknowledgement and did not expect anything in exchange for helping me through my crisis. This is my brief story about Mike from my own experience; I am told there are many more very similar to mine.

I know and understand firsthand how quickly people turn against you when you are down and make a mistake and my situation was not a public spectacle. The strain and daily anxiety of raising a family and running a business are tough enough; I can only speculate the added strain for Mike and his family during his crisis. When his daughter first joined our team, no less than three team parents were quick to share the juicy gossip of the Bouthillettes. Unfortunately, Mike's mistake negatively affects his wife, children, and the positive life they live beyond one circumstance. This type of constant strain and humiliation is sentence enough for any person.

In closing, I wish to ask your honor to be just but lenient with Mike's sentence.

Respectfully, 


Dear Judge McConnell,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have resided in the town of Lincoln RI for all but 6 years of my 28 year life. I am an individual that has been part of all sports and sports orientated events for all of my life. I first meet Michael Bouthillette when I was about 10 years old and have know him ever since. I have known Michael and his family for the past 18 years and have a lot of good times with him. Michael was the first football coach that I have ever had in my life. He and generosity for establishing the Lincoln Youth Football Association is one of the biggest reasons I was able to enjoy my childhood. From the age of 10 all the way through the age of 20 Michael had always made sure he would see me and ask me if everything was going good, making sure to give me pointers based on the games he watched of us week in and week out, and always made sure that we kept our heads on straight and were not causing any trouble. Michael thought of me as one of his kids and always made sure we all knew he cared about all of us. Over the years Michael was able to give me a job doing miscellaneous things here and there until I decided to move the North Carolina for a few years.

When I decided to move back I contacted Michael to see if there was anything he had for work and he told me as soon as I was in town come see me the door is always open for me. Ever since the day I moved back and for the past 4 years Michael has supplied me with a job within his maintenance company while attending college to get my degree and to better myself. He told me that school is one of the most important things that I can do and that he supported me in what I was doing and said it was great.

I am a young man that is in the process of growing up in times that are a lot harder than some may recall. My fiancé [REDACTED] and I are battling the facts of high student loans and tons of bills. As a young up start couple Michael has allowed my fiancé and I to rent a beautiful property he owns in Lincoln RI for a small fee without asking for anything in return so that [REDACTED] and I are able to save for our wedding, save for a home to buy, and most of all to help us get our feet on the ground before we make any major decisions. If it wasn't for Michael I really don't know where I would be today. Not only has he helped me, he has taught me many lessons in life, I know that he will continue to teach me things no matter my age.

Michael is a responder, meaning he takes immediate action to those that need assistance and never says no. This doesn't only go for those that need his monetary help but for those that ask for his exceptional quality services within his businesses. This is what makes Michael successful, his ability to act using kindness and generosity regardless if it maybe a sewage backup or a flooded home. He will be there to help with whatever is needed at that time. We often hear the phrase, "Kindness kills" as it pertains to how we treat each other in society and business, but in this case Michael Bouthillette is suffering for his frequent acts of kindness in which we will all learn that our community is about to lose out on.

As Michael started serving in the US Coast Guard upon graduating high school its plain to see the three most important values he possess today; the importance of family, integrity, and humanity. Michael is one of the most dedicated people when it comes to family. I can't remember a time when he and his entire family didn't gather together for Sunday breakfast after he had taken his entire family to church. I remember there were times when it was snowing and I was plowing snow where he made sure that I got out of my truck and came in to eat a hot meal. He has always praised the importance of family and when my parents were divorced Michael would take me aside and have talks with me to make sure I was okay and to help lead me in the right direction when he knew times were tough. I truly don't know a man more dedicated to family and supporting of one another then Michael Bouthillette. I hope to someday be half as much as he truly is.

Michael's importance to family is so great that he made sure that he never missed any of his 5 children's sports games even if it meant running all the way to California to watch his son play baseball or his daughter play softball in North Carolina. He would truly do anything for his family because that is the single most important thing to him, and that is what he has taught me since the day I meet him. In saying this I hope you can see not only will Michael be losing his passion to help others, but those that need help will be missing out on their opportunity to be blessed by one of his potential acts of kindness.

I ask for leniency in his sentencing for not only [REDACTED] and I but for the entire community and his family. He has been a generous giving member along with his family at St. Ambrose Church in Albion RI donating food and money to those that are less fortunate. Also, Mike gives donations to Lincoln High School for the sports teams' uniforms and gives his personal time to help coach the students. Michael is a great man I hope you can see though my experiences how Michael is a truly good hearted and much loved person not only by his family but by people like me too.

Thank you



12/7/2012

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

I'm writing to express my deep concern for Michael Bouthillette, who is appearing in front of you in February. I have known Mike for approximately 25 years. We met when Mike's Cleaning company was hired by [REDACTED] the supervisor of our 80,000 sq ft office building in Lincoln RI. At the time I was a partner in [REDACTED] and had just built this building to accommodate our growing mortgage company. I quickly learned that Mike was one of the most dependable, helpful and honest contractors we had ever dealt with.

Perhaps that was because Mike had mostly family working for him, including his brothers and cousins. I soon found out that family is *everything* to Mike. I remember thinking that his only limit in business would be that he would run out of family members to expand. I was wrong. Even when both his brothers eventually left to join Rhode Island police forces, Mike was able to continue his high level of service because he treated everyone in his employ as family. In fact he treated his customers as family too. He went far beyond cleaning. He found a way to solve many of our needs in managing the building as well. This resourcefulness gave him the experience to expand into the disaster recovery business. Mike always responds quickly, works as hard as anyone I know to resolve your situation, and treats you fairly. He does this for all his customers, not just the large ones.

Twenty two years ago I opened a child care center in my building in Lincoln in order to allow our quality employees to return to work after pregnancy without having to worry about child care. Mike and his company oversaw the construction which converted the space from office to daycare for us.

Sadly, a few years later [REDACTED] died suddenly of a massive heart attack. Without [REDACTED], I was left without a building manager, and would have been stuck in a tough position had it not been for Mike. Mike went out of his way to help me by managing the entire building and then found me a quality replacement for [REDACTED] position. He did this all while he was growing his own business. His kindness helped us through a very trying time.

As this new child care company expanded, Mike helped with many build outs as we transformed office, warehouse, and in some cases, existing poorly designed child care buildings into state of the art early learning centers. We recently opened our 19th center, again with the assistance of Mike's construction and facilities services. My company now employs over 300 people throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Without Mike's help, The Children's Workshop's growth would not have been as smooth as it was.

This year alone, Mike helped oversee the transformation of our newest sites in North Kingstown and Cranston, RI. I believe it is a great testimony to Mike's work ethic and his commitment to both his company and its customers that he was able to continue a high level of service while going through the mental anguish he has undergone during the long legal ordeal he now faces.

Over the years I have developed a strong bond of friendship with Mike. I trust him explicitly. I have partnered with him in business and we currently jointly own two commercial buildings. In the past we have been partners in other ventures as we have remodeled and sold property together. We have always done these deals on a handshake. I cannot stress enough that Mike is the most honorable man I know. I would love to tell you about numerous times he has help friends when needed but to keep this letter brief, I will tell you of two times he has helped me.

My wife and I bought a winter home in [REDACTED] in December of 2005. In October of 2006 we noticed that the monthly water bill spiked. We had a neighbor enter and found that the water supply to our refrigerator icemaker had sprung loose. Water ran constantly into our home for at least 45 days. You can imagine the resulting damage. The humidity caused by all this water delaminated our kitchen cabinets, and soaked many of the walls up to 3 ft high. The insurance claim was in excess of \$80,000. This was during the Florida building boom so we could not get any company to remediate the mold. All were out straight and told us the earliest they could start was months in the future. When he heard what had happened, Mike and two of his best employees flew to Florida within a week. They worked endlessly for 3 days to remove and remediate all of the damage. Mike also used his companies network to find us a reliable contractor that was able to complete the rebuild by April of 2007. Without Mike's help, the mold would have continued to grow causing further damage. We would not have been able to use our home that winter.


Last December I had an elderly couple move out of a two family in [REDACTED] that I had purchased in 1981. They had lived in the unit for over 50 years. It needed a complete remodel. Naturally, I asked for Mike's help. He sent two of his best men and they spent a month putting in a new kitchen and bathroom, and completely painting all five rooms. Because this was my personal investment property, he treated me as he treats his friends. He didn't use his companies billing department which enabled him to keep the costs lower but it also made his billing slower. I had to repeatedly ask him for the bill and was finally after repeated requests able to get him to calculate the final cost 4 months later in April. He did not charge me interest on the 4 months from completion until payment, so I can easily see how the discrepancy on the billing for the Mayor's repairs occurred. Mike was just treating him as he did me and would any of his good friends. In this case, however, Mike's mistake was not recognizing that because he was also an elected official he needed to charge him differently.

I know of many other examples of selfless times when Mike has helped other friends, often with delayed or sometimes no compensation because they weren't in a position to pay. Mike never looks for return favors; he helps others out of the goodness of his heart. In fact, he is the hardest friend to help, as he is so self sufficient. All he has ever asked of me is advice and friendship.

I know this experience has been horrible for Mike. For a man whose word is his bond, this has cut him to his core. His thoughts have always been of how this will affect his family more than how it affects him personally. His children are everything to Mike. Years ago, just after the birth of his 5th child, Mike asked me if five kids were too many. I responded that in this day and age, did he know anyone else who had 5 kids? He thought about it and said no. I then asked him to consider what that told him and as it turns out, [REDACTED] was to be his last baby. As the years go by, I witness how much his children mean to him and how much love both he and [REDACTED] give them that I have realized that he should have had more. I think I gave him some bad advice; Mike is an amazing father and husband. As I stated in the opening of this letter, family means *everything* to Mike. He is now blessed with 3 grandchildren that he smothers with love. Being away from them would be the most unbearable fate for him. Nevertheless, I have no doubt that Mike will get through this situation as he is the strongest, most loyal friend I have. I feel blessed to have Mike and his wonderful family in my family's life. I ask of you to please try to minimize Mike's time away from his family.


Thank You for your consideration,

[REDACTED]


December 23, 2012

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903



Dear Judge McConnell,

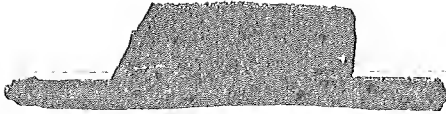
My name is  I am writing to you today to express my support for my good friend, Mike Bouthillette. I have known Mike for over 10 years. Mike's children and mine grew up together, playing baseball and basketball. We have spent countless hours watching our children mature.

During our years of friendship, Mike has been a source of constant help to my family. Our home has endured basement flooding three times due to rainfall. Mike was the first friend to come to our aid. He helped us pump water out and restore our home to its original state. Mike generously did this as a friend at no cost. Last January we had a devastating fire to our home. Mike again was our first friend to come to our aid. From the very first hour after the fire, he has been a God-send to my family. He even invited our whole family, including our two dogs, to stay with his family until we could find more permanent housing. His company came the next day and cleaned out the house and packaged all our belongings and stored them in his facility. Everyone that works for him has been wonderful to us. His construction company has completed the rebuilding of our house and we are happily back at home.

I have seen Mike several times a week for the past year, due to the fire. I have personally witnessed how this experience has devastated him, his family, and business. Whenever we mention his family or the people who work for him his eyes fill with tears. He worries for their futures. I have seen him age month after month going through this experience. Despite all that Mike has endured lately, he has been a shoulder for me to lean on.

I respectfully ask for your leniency for my friend. He is a good man. He is a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He is a well-respected employer. He is a loyal friend. Thank you for reading my letter and considering my true friendship with Mike. We've been friends for many years and will continue to be for many years to come.

Respectfully,





January 2, 2013

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

I am honored to write a letter of reference on behalf of Michael Bouthillette of Lincoln, Rhode Island. I have known Michael for over 30 years, since our time at Lincoln High School, and have enjoyed a working relationship and friendship with him as a real estate investor and Lincoln business owner for over 15 years. Several times, I purchased and rehabilitated neglected, banked-owned or abandoned homes in northern Rhode Island, and every time I have called upon Michael, an honest and trustworthy professional for his advice and assistance on these projects. I engaged Mike's services because of the quality of his work and his proven record of reliability, and more importantly, because he is a man of great integrity.

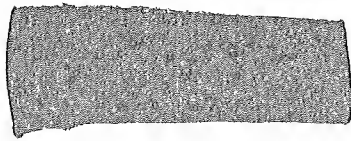
My remodeling contracts with Michael's business, Certified Restoration, have always been sealed with a handshake. Our agreements were gentleman's agreements: his original estimates never changed, unless he could save me money, and he always did. The quality of his work was always exemplary, and his crew always completed it when promised. Most striking in our business relationship is the enormous amount of trust he placed in me. At the start of every project, I would ask him if I could give him a deposit, or half of the contract. He would always respond, "How about this: when you sell the property, we will get together and you can pay me then." Sometimes he would have to wait six months for a sale to close on these properties. No one does that.

Michael never asked for money up front. His goal was to help me get the projects off the ground and see them through to completion. He never placed a lien on my properties. He never charged interest. Michael's guidance and support allowed me and my business to thrive, despite a slower and more difficult real estate market. His goal remained consistent and unwavering: to keep everyone working and thriving. Most astounding of all, after closing on each of the properties, I would have to call his office for an invoice, because none would ever come. Michael is truly a wonderful person and good friend.

As a business owner and large employer, Michael provides valuable services to so many colleagues, and to the community at large. His efforts keep many people working and our economy growing. His contributions to the community will continue provided he is given the opportunity to remain productive. Most importantly, he is a good man whose generosity and kindness is unparalleled. I respectfully urge you to allow Michael to remain a vital and active member of our community.

Sincerely,





November 30, 2012

To the Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United State District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI. 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

I am honored to write this letter to tell you a bit about Mike Bouthillette, his character, how I have known him and specific examples that I have witnessed.

I have known Mike since he was a young boy growing up in the city of Central Falls. He has done countless acts of charity over several decades and never taken credit. He has helped individuals and families and groups. Mike has provided food for many at the holidays and at many other times of year, just because he heard that people needed help. He anonymously funded new computers to the local community center at a time when there would otherwise be no computers.

Few people know that Mike was the one who in the mid-1990's, quietly put up \$30,000 to help fund the Lincoln Lions Youth Football and Cheerleading Programs. He understood what it would be like for youth who had nothing, to grow up with Pop Warner, and have direction, guidance, mentoring and develop values. He understood it would prevent crime, make the city better and give people meaning. Because of his vision and generosity many children and families enjoy the fall afternoons games still. Today because of what he started two decades ago, there are hundreds of youth and families positively affected each year. Sports are one of the only things that some kids in tough situations in difficult parts of many communities have going for them.

You see I was Mike's coach. We first met when he tried out for the Central Falls Lions Football at age 12. I immediately saw a quality in him that I did not see in other kids at that age. He held himself to a higher standard. On the team there was a weight limit to qualify and he was a chubby kid, but he dropped 30 lbs over the summer to make the weight limit. At 5 am he would show up, always on time, and we would run Lincoln woods. He was more dedicated, a level above, with more drive and commitment. He was a leader by example, by being calm and

quiet and in the way he did his drills diligently. Others always followed Mike and he helped them believe that they could reach their goals. Mike became the most valuable player in 1977 because of his character and integrity. He always treated everyone with the utmost respect and worked hard always. He was unselfish.

Mike has helped so many families buying them food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. He has donated large amounts of money to the Central Falls Panthers and the Blackstone Valley Youth Football Association when equipment and money was stolen. He did it anonymously, but I knew Mike had to be the one who did it. When I asked him, he said "Yes" but asked me not to tell anybody. In another year one of the teams had played well and they had the opportunity to go to Florida to play against another team. There was no way that could have happened financially. They had some money but not anyway near enough. Mike quietly stepped forward again and provided the funds needed.

Today I am proud of him. He has several successful businesses. Many people do not know that Mike lived in a small apartment in a three tenement building in Central Falls. And it was not uncommon for him to work 20 hours a day (literally), which he did for many years.

Mike has also been kind to me. He would never tell anyone this story. For many years I have been a security guard. I've worked at [REDACTED] and also for [REDACTED]. Early on in my career, though I was a machinist for 20 years and during that time metal got in my lungs. Years later I became ill and was forced to retire. Mike heard about my situation and knew I could no longer afford my apartment. He said "don't worry about it, we'll work it out". For two years I stayed in his apartment rent-free. And he let me have some money until I was approved for disability.

Mike is a wonderful human being, with greatest character. The apple does not fall far from the tree. He has a family that has learned his spirit of generosity and his kids are kind, compassionate and giving.

Mike has always taken every effort to give to people who he knew were struggling. Mike does not tell people when he helps others, but I have been there when it has happened, many times. Over the years, I have seen people who he has helped, who have told me privately, years later, that it was Mike who stepped forward so they would not lose their house, so they could get their car fixed to get to work, or so they could buy groceries. I know I'd be probably be homeless today without him. Mike helps in so many ways. He still makes time to drive me to get my prescriptions on a regular basis. I don't know how he does it all.

Mike helps, because it's the right thing to do. Often over the years he even gave more than he can afford, and later found work to make up for it.

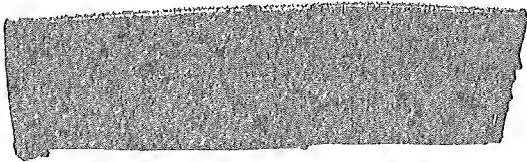
Mike is a person who has been unfairly covered in the papers. How this could happen to someone who is so genuine, I do not understand. How the papers get away with only showing one side of the story and not talking about all the good work he and his company have done in this city, is wrong. I know how this unfair reporting has affected Mike and his family, for their word and reputation mean everything to them.

There is only honesty in Mike. He is generous and caring and would never do anything knowingly wrong. He knows that he should not have given to the Mayor, and he takes responsibility for that, but I can see how that could happen, as he is simply a giving person and did not think it through.

Honorable judge, I hope you will consider all the acts of kindness Mike has done over the years, when making a decision on his case. Dozens if not hundreds of people depend upon Mike and I cannot imagine how it would affect everyone, to have him away for an extended time.

Your honor I give you a plea for leniency. For Mike to go to jail would be awful, for he is a man who is everything so many of us strive to be.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, rectangular redacted area covering the signature of the letter.

December 18, 2012

The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell,

I am writing to you with the hope of explaining the type of person Michael G. Bouthillette really is. My name is [REDACTED] and I met Michael 15 years ago while I was the Vice President at [REDACTED]. We hired Michael's company for cleaning & restoration services for our retail clients, after working with Michael for several years a friendship developed between us. We found that we had a lot in common, both being devoted to our families and communities; I'm married with 3 children, and he has his wife [REDACTED], his 5 children, [REDACTED] and 3 grandchildren, [REDACTED]. Both of us have been involved in local sports with our kids as well. I knew I could trust him to look after my clients and consider him a loyal friend.

The year of 2008 was an extremely stressful time for me and my family. Due to the recession, I was about to become unemployed. Mike saw my stress and knew what the effect of being jobless would have on my entire family, especially with my oldest in college. One day when we were discussing what was going on he reassured me that I shouldn't worry and be stressed out. He offered me a position within his company! I cannot begin to explain to you the relief I felt knowing that I would still be able to provide for my family. The security this brought to my family allowed my oldest daughter to continue on in college as planned. In December of that year, I joined Michael's management team and am now the [REDACTED] in Providence, my daughter graduated [REDACTED] in 2011 and my oldest son is currently pursuing his own degree.

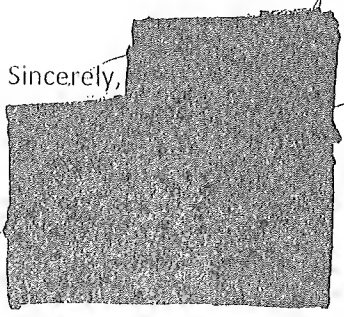
In March 2011, Michael showed his generosity and grace again as I experienced another stressful situation that affected my family. My wife needed a vehicle so she could get to work and help out with our family finances so we wouldn't fall further behind. As we were trying to purchase a car we were denied a car loan. Michael voluntarily and without any hesitation, helped me purchase a vehicle. This is just one of the many examples in which Michael goes out of his way for others, over the years I've seen Michael help many other families in times of need. Whether it be a job done at no charge for families struggling to get by or sponsoring sports teams so they can have a team at all, Mike is a thoughtful and generous person who continuously places the needs of others on his list of priorities.

Even though Michael is committed to his business and employees I have never met a more loving, dedicated husband, father and grandfather. Michael's generosity has had a tremendous affect on his family and others around him. I understand that Michael has accepted responsibility for his actions with Mayor Charles Moreau and the City of Central Falls; however, I feel that the situation is another example of Michael's generous actions to support a childhood friend, who was having financial troubles. I also feel Michael is a valuable asset to the community and the economy by providing employment and opportunities for others. I feel if Michael is away from the business too long, the

business could suffer and several people might lose their jobs, myself included. It's far too rare that we find people who after working hard their whole life to achieve financial success, are willing to share with others; many of whom he doesn't even know personally. Who go out of their way to improve their community without looking for any special recognition and who still believe that helping others is as important as helping yourself. I honestly feel Michael is a perfect example of this and, it is my sincere hope that you will take Michael's character into consideration when determining how to sentence him.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



The Honorable John J. McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell,

My name is [REDACTED] I have known Mike Bouthillette since 1992. I was starting a youth football and cheerleading program in the Town of Lincoln when I found out that Mike was also starting a program. Not knowing me at all, once we met, he could see that he and I had similar ideals and allowed me to partner with him in the effort. Mike was financially able to fund the start up, where I was not, and this allowed the league to grow and he was reimbursed by us over the next 5 years. "It is all about the kids", the ideal Mike believes in. He was always helping organizations with anonymous donations, never bringing attention to himself or his companies. I recall a situation involving a rival organization where they had been embezzled for some money and couldn't afford to update their helmets and suddenly new helmets appeared and were paid for anonymously. It took me two years to get him to admit to it, but he did, and I have been sworn to silence about that incident until this letter. Recently, Mike met with me and asked me to remove his name from the "Michael Bouthillette Sportsmanship Award". We honored him with the credit of this award based on the ideals he presented to our organization and to the players he coached. His concern was that some child would be so proud to receive this award, then, the parent may want to relate it to the situation Mike is in. We have removed his name from the award. Mike still comes to the games, even though he has been away from coaching for years, and stands in the crowd, unnoticed but proud to see the program flourishing. The two main reasons he stopped coaching was that he needed to spend more time at his companies and to also coach and support his children in their athletic careers.

Mike has also been a supportive part of my personal and business life. In 1997 I was forced to file personal bankruptcy. When it all started to come down around me, Mike gave me a call and met with me to discuss the situation. I had kept my personal situation to myself and no one knew of my problems. Mike found out, reviewed my situation and tried to help me not lose my house. At that point, it was a situation that was not repairable. At one point I had been given a notice to vacate my property. I had no where to bring my family. My parent and siblings didn't offer any help in finding a place for my family to stay. Mike told me not to worry about it and provided me with an apartment in a duplex that he owned, in the same school district that my children were attending. He made the rent reasonable, didn't ask for a security deposit, just told me "not to worry it will get better". This was a very large apartment, an apartment that he used to live in. About a year later, he informs me that he has sold his house and is moving into the first floor until his house is built. The first floor was two bedrooms, one bath, living room and an eat in kitchen. Mike was moving his 5 kids, 2 dogs, he and his wife in this tiny

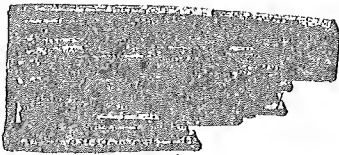
apartment. I wanted to switch apartments with him. He said "no, I want my kids to learn a lesson", let them appreciate what they have. Your Honor, they spent that Christmas in that apartment with smiles on their faces.

As I had mentioned earlier, Mike has been a supportive part of my business career. For twenty years I worked for different companies in the floor covering business. I was very good at what I did, but, wasn't being compensated for my ability. I had hit a crossroads in my career and in 1999 I decide to take over my brother's floor covering store and work for myself. I had just gone through a bankruptcy and thought this was a foolish thing to do. I turn to my friend Mike Bouthillette and asked him his opinion. He gave me the inspiration to do this. He told me that he knew that I always worked hard on whatever I did, and that there is nothing like working for yourself. He was right. I have grown my business and we are recognized as one of the best in this area. I have done some business with Mike over the years, but it is not the main part of my business. I have never had to or needed a contract with Mike. His word has always been good enough for me. When you develop a trust with people you learn who you can trust. We don't do all his floor covering work, but what we do, we do well and Mike knows we get it done on time.

Judge McConnell, in closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope this will give you an idea of who Mike Bouthillette really is and in your final decision process take into consideration the good Mike has done and be lenient on his sentencing.

Sincerely,





January 4, 2013

Honorable Judge McConnell,

It is with full knowledge of Michael Bouthillette's guilty plea of giving unlawful gratuities to the (former) Mayor of Central Falls, Charles Moreau, that I provide this character reference.

Michael Bouthillette is my older brother. I am forty-three years old, married, and the father of two beautiful children. I have been employed by [REDACTED] for ten years, and currently hold the position of senior vice president, Executive Protection Services. Prior to joining [REDACTED] I served seven years in local and state law enforcement. Previous to being employed within the public and private sectors, I earned my master's degree from [REDACTED] in the Administration of Justice, and a bachelor's degree in Justice Studies from [REDACTED]. I am also a graduate of the New York State Police Academy and the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy.

In addition to being a brother, Michael has been a surrogate father, friend, and mentor. There has never been a time in my life that Michael wasn't there for me. He consistently walked with me to elementary school each morning, made dinner when our parents worked late hours, and somehow found the time to tirelessly work to teach me how to play baseball and football. Michael also demonstrated how imperative it was to defend myself, but most importantly instilled within me the significance of integrity, kindness, hard work, and generosity.

Michael is one of the most giving people I know. His generosity is at the core of his being. I have personally watched Michael extend financial support and kindness to family, friends, and even strangers. Personally, it was Michael who took it upon himself to make sure I had the financial means to not only attend college, but also be the first individual in our family to graduate from college. This act of kindness changed my life, and has been instrumental in allowing me to provide a wonderful life for my family.

I remember when I was ten I would beg Michael to let me tag along with him to the gas station where he worked part-time. There was a mentally handicapped man who would ride his bike to visit with Michael on a regular bases. As a teenager, Michael treated this gentleman as a friend and even purchased a unique fiberglass windshield for his bicycle. I have watched Michael demonstrate the compassion he

has for his fellow man my entire life. He exhaustively gives his time and energy and would literally offer the shirt off his back to help others.

The magnitude of Michael's life was evident during my late fathers wake in August of 2011. More than half of the attendees were strangers who came to give their condolences to Michael. Standing in the receiving line next to Michael I heard many heart-warming stories of life long friendships, enormous generosity, and was amazed at the number of people's lives Michael has touched.


I am sincerely astonished, perplexed, and heartbroken by the choices Michael has made and the circumstances he now faces. Over the years I've been asked to write character references and have declined. My willingness to speak on behalf of Michael has little to do with the unwavering love I have for my brother and more to do with believing in the human being that he is. I say with the greatest conviction; Michael Bouthillette is a selfless, hard working, kind, and generous human being.

Michael's poor decision to involve himself in the political arena will not define his life in my eyes. I will do everything in my power to constantly support his wife and children, reminding them of the true character and life of generosity exhibited over almost fifty years.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the Michael Bouthillette you may not know.

It is with the highest respect of the Judicial System, as well as you and your position, that I personally request leniency for Michael Bouthillette.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, rectangular redacted area covering the signature and name of the sender.

January 2, 2013

The Honorable John McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge McConnell,

I am writing this letter with a very heavy heart on behalf of my brother Michael Bouthillette. My name is [REDACTED] and I'm the youngest brother of Michael's. I have been married for thirteen years and have three children. I have been a [REDACTED] Police Officer for fifteen years and currently serve as dayshift Sergeant.

Your Honor, I would like to start off by describing Michael's character. Michael is one of the most caring and giving person's I have ever known. My brother has always been there for me and my family, and is a major reason I am the person I am today. Michael is twelve years older than me, and was the one who took me to football practice every day, because our father was working and could not be there. Michael would stay and help out coaching, even though, I'm sure he had many other things to tend to besides coaching his little brother. When my father was not around, Michael was not only my big brother, but also a father figure. Michael taught me the true meaning of hard work and dedication and to always have pride in myself and to never quit, no matter the odds. Michael is a self made business man, who started his maintenance company with just a mop and bucket. I know this, because many times our parents were working, and Michael had to take his little brother to work with him. Most of the traits I use today as a law enforcement officer have been shown to me from Michael. I believe in my profession the most important characteristic you can display is integrity, and this was taught to me by my brother Michael. Many of Michael's employees of Intercity Maintenance have left the company and became law enforcement officers, including both local and state police. I always remember my brother congratulating each guy the same way, telling them "Don't ever let the badge get to your head and remember you wanted this job to help people."

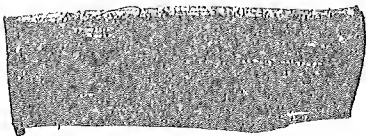
Michael has done so much for the community of Lincoln throughout the years, and he is well known by many. I remember one day, many of the neighborhood kids were playing football at Michael's house with his oldest son Anthony. They were talking about playing football, and how they would have to play for Cumberland or Pawtucket, because Lincoln didn't have a youth football program. Michael and I began talking about the day's he had coached me in the Cumberland organization, because Lincoln hadn't had a team in years. Well, Michael changed that in the early 90's bringing back the Lincoln Lions Youth Football Organization. Michael used his own money and put many hours of his time and preparation into getting the program off and running. Michael wanted the youth football uniforms to resemble the High schools, to instill pride in the program and encourage the players to look forward to

one day playing at that high level. I coached with Michael for many years, and observed what a difference he made in so many young men's lives. Michael taught the young men to play together and always have pride in themselves and their teammates. I have crossed paths with many of the young men Michael and I have coached in my daily law enforcement duties, and they always ask me to say hi to Coach Mike for them, and how much they learned from him. The program continues today with hundreds of Lincoln's youths benefitting from the kindness of my brother's generosity and pride he has for the community.

I realize Michael has acknowledged responsibility for violating the federal law more than two years ago, while doing board-up work for the City of Central falls. One of my duties as a Lincoln Police officer is to fill all the department details. If a detail can't be filled, I reach out to surrounding communities and Central Falls is one of them. I have had the opportunity to speak with many of the officers who worked the details for the houses Michael boarded up. Each officer told me Michael was always very professional and at no time did Michael board up a house someone was living in. In speaking with the officers many of them were happy to see the board ups happening, because the vacant houses were used by gang members to sell and manufacture drugs. I know Michael may have violated some federal laws, but there were so many foolish rumors and accusations going around from people who hated the Mayor that were not true, regarding the board ups.

Your Honor, since the passing of our father in 2011, Michael has taken over being the main link in the family chain once again. He is the one we all turn to when things aren't going the way they should. I hope and pray you look at the person Michael Bouthillette really is, and how much he is needed by the community and his family. I told many members of the police department, who knew Michael, about what was happening before it was released by the press. I advised them that my brother may face jail time, and many of them were almost brought to tears. They know Michael and everything he has done for the community and so many who were in need. I know being a law enforcement officer, Michael has to be punished for his mistakes. I hope and pray, you take everything into consideration when sentencing my brother, and realize one mistake should not define this kind, caring, generous, humble man.

Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

December 5, 2012

To The Honorable John J McConnell
Judge, United States District Court
District of Rhode Island
One Exchange Terrace
Federal Building and Courthouse
Providence, RI. 02903

Dear Judge McConnell:

Thank you for receiving letters on behalf of Mike Bouthillette, as that will allow me to speak to the type of person he is. I think it is important for you to know how giving and responsible he is.

I have also been a friend of Mike's for many years. Mike is "old school", where his word is gold. Mike is the type of guy where everything is done on a handshake and he always says "don't worry about it, we'll get to it". Mike and I have bought houses together with just a handshake. And he has always been trustworthy, and to his fault, he trusts everyone.

One time I needed help with a closing that was happening. On a handshake Mike helped advance funds for me for three weeks to allow my closing to happen on time. Without his help I would not have been able to buy the house. We come through for each other all the time, whenever needed.

I am a carpenter, who has done subcontracting work for Mike for many years. The work I have done for Mike almost always involved carpentry, including finish work. I bill Mike for my own work and the work of the people I employ. Generally, Mike pays me not long after the work is done.

I want to say something about the board-up projects, which I was usually part of. You see I was a subcontractor for Mike on most of the jobs that Mike did securing properties. I am particularly upset by claims that we boarded up houses where people still lived, implying people were actually occupying the apartments. I never saw that happen. Per city requirements, when we would do a board-up we could not start until the Police and Building Department were on site and gave the go-ahead. We were never in charge of making that decision. It simply was not our job to do so.

The only time houses were boarded up in which people lived, were partial board ups. And the purpose was to secure the building and to make it more habitable for folks on the inhabited floors. But first the Police and Building Department, who would arrive on site, would inspect and clear the building areas to be boarded, and then give us the order. We never did a board up without those required steps being taken, and documented by them. I am sure that some folks were dissatisfied because they felt the city was moving too fast. However, if the buildings still actually had tenants living in them we left them in a better, cleaner, safer environment then they had been in for a long time.

There are also allegations of un-boarding and re-boarding. The only time we would remove boarding was when previously there had been a poor attempt to do the job, and where the building was therefore not sanitary or secure at all. We followed the state law in doing the board ups. In those situations where a building was either partially boarded or haphazardly boarded and the properties were still a mess we did the job right. And we never did any work unless we were sent there by the Building Department and met by the police.

I also want to mention some work I did on Mayor Moreau's house in Lincoln. Mike told me he was holding his bills for renovation work on the house until it was sold. I thought that the sale was just around the corner and agreed to do the same. In all, my work came to about \$600. Over the next six weeks I asked Mike a couple times whether he had heard if the Mayor had any luck in selling, and found out the Mayor had not. In my small business and cash flow is always problem. Eventually, I went to Mike because I was feeling the pressure of my own financial situation. I asked Mike if there was any way I could get paid. Mike told me "No problem, I'll take care of it, just get me the invoice so I can add it to the bill." I gave Mike my bill and he cut me a check. That's just the kind of guy he is.

I understand that Mike has admitted violating the law and that he has to answer for it. I have respect for your authority to decide what is just in sentencing Mike. When you do, please consider that, as wrong as it was for Mike to give something to the Mayor, Mike does not have an evil heart. He made a mistake that is very different from the way he has lived his life and the good he has done. Your Honor, please show leniency in sentencing Mike.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A large, dark, irregularly shaped redacted area covering the signature and possibly the name of the person who signed the letter.

The Honorable John J. McConnell

Dear Judge McConnell:

My Name is [REDACTED] I am currently a lieutenant with the [REDACTED] Police Department. My wife, Deb and I grew up in Lincoln and currently raise our four children in Lincoln.

I have known Michael Bouthillette for the past 25 years so I feel I have an excellent understanding of who Mike is as a person and a member of this community. Mike cares for this community and has shown his dedication to being a good citizen and family man currently raising five children, all productive members of this community. Mike has dedicated countless hours and money to help the children of this community through the youth football and little league baseball programs.

This ordeal that Mike got himself into is a life lesson that I wish he did not have to learn. I am confident Mike has learned a lot from this incident. I am also confident society does not have to worry about Michael Bouthillette reoffending. Mike has lost a lot during these trying times and only you can prevent him from losing his freedom.

I ask that you please show leniency to a man that made a terrible mistake and has been punished dearly for it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I do not take these matters lightly.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]